

J. H. CONWAY AND N. J. A. SLOANE, *Sphere Packings, Lattices and Groups*, Springer, 1988, 663 pp.

This is the best survey of the best work in one of the best fields of combinatorics, written by the best people. It will make the best reading by the best students interested in the best mathematics that is now going on.

J. D. MONK AND R. BONNET, *Handbook of Boolean Algebras*, North-Holland, 1989, 3 vol., 1367 pp.

There are some books one reads with a mixture of joy and satisfaction, like a job well done. The theory of Boolean algebras is one of the great success stories of this century; it has been a testing ground, as well as a source, of some of the concepts that are now fundamental in functional analysis, in logic, and in probability. We cannot find sufficient words to thank the editors of this unique enterprise for the marvelous work they have done; one leafs through the pages of these volumes with steady enthusiasm not unmixed with the joy of reliving one's favored mathematical moments. This set will be to the reviewer—and, the reviewer hopes, to every reader (never mind the price)—a permanent bedside book, to be read on chilly winter nights when the winds of antimathematicalness are particularly strong.

GIAN-CARLO ROTA

*Editor*